

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 NEA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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R 050800Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4905

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 1013

CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL MARR PARM UK IO MP

SUBJECT: REACTION TO UK DEFENSE REVIEW

1. INITIAL REACTION IN MAURITIUS TO DECEMBER 3 REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON DEFENSE REVIEW FOCUSING ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO CLOSE HMS MAURITIUS COMMUNICATIONS STATION. UK DECISION TO TERMINATE SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT AND QTE GREEN LIGHT UNQTE FOR US CONSTRUCTION OF QTE IMPORTANT NAVAL AIR-BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA UNQTE RECEIVING SECONDARY PRESS ATTENTION. UDM DAILY, LIBERATION, SUMMED UP PRESS ATTITUDE IN TITLE QTE BYE BYE JOHN BULL, HELLO UNCLE SAM. UNQTE

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2. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER BRIND, WHO INFORMED PRIME

MINISTER RAMGOOLAM OF CONTEMPLATED DLOSE PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT, TOLD ME PM TOOK THE NEWS OF DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION AND HMS MAURITIUS PHASE-OUT CALMLY AND WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY ON A SUBSEQUENT OFFICIAL CALL. PM STATED TO PRESS THAT HE HAD NO COMMENT BUT QTE I THINK NOW WE MUST WATCH THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS DECISION. UNQTE MINISTER JAGATSINGH, SECRETARY GENERAL OF LABOR PARTY AND PRESIDENT OF MAURITIAN WORLD PEACE COMMITTEE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING QTE IN THIS SITUATION THINGS MUST CHANGE. WE MUST NOT TAKE RIGID POSITIONS. UNQTE JAGATSINGH ADDED THAT THE DECISION TO CLOSE HMS MAURITIUS HAS NO AFFECT ON THE ANGLO-MAURITIAN DEFENSE AGREEMENT.

3. TIME FRAME FOR HMS MAURITIUS PHASE-OUT IS SENSITIVE RESTRICTED INFORMATION HERE BUT HIGH COMMISSION QUIETLY INFORMED ME THAT FACILITY WOULD BE CLOSED BY APRIL 1976. PRESS ESTIMATED THAT HMS MAURITIUS INJECTS AT LEAST RUPEES 10 MILLION (\$1,760,563) INTO MAURITIAN ECONOMY EACH YEAR THROUGH SALARIES, SERVICES, UTILITIES AND OTHER PROCUREMENT. ABOUT 600 JOBS FOR RELATIVELY WELL-QUALIFIED MAURITIANS WILL BE LOST WHEN THE BASE IS TERMINATED.
HEATLEY

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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